



From Bedtime On

Jean Gill

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'A delicious book full of the unexpected. Highly emotive contents.' - Writing Magazine

The second collection of poetry from award-winning author Jean Gill retains the passion and spiky humour for which she is known but this has matured into a unique, assured view of our world. Her most lyrical poems reveal a sensuality that lingers in the imagination.

'I would not give my eyes to tune pianos
but for one brightened night to read
the raised points of your skin with blind man's fingers
I might.'

Other poems share political insights with timeless, incisive humour.

'Just like that cheated child, who eats his 'chosen' veg
I'm bribed, cajoled, bombasted by each politician's pledge.
This greener, better future which they say they offer me,

has horizons built of money on the dead dreams of the free.
Unless I stand for my beliefs myself, election means
that I'm doomed to cast my vote
for processed peas or processed beans.'

Divided into two parts, this new edition includes the stories behind the poetry, some personal and some on the craft of writing poetry; always surprising.

'The humour frequently has the effect of pointing up the stark reality with which she writes. She employs a variety of styles to make the collection even more interesting.

-Ted Griffin, Pause Magazine

From Bedtime On Details

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From Reader Review From Bedtime On for online ebook

Sue Ross says

I was attracted first to this poetry collection by the cover and I am so glad that I was! At school Poetry escaped me, although I studied English, French and German poems. For me, I did not like being told what the poet had intended me to know and I did not have the experiences to enable me to engage with many of the topics covered by those classic poets. Now I see colour, feel emotion and hear sounds as my memory is triggered by the written word. As a mother of three, but the youngest a son, I felt tears fall as I read about the Creative Motherhood. I am crying as I remember holding my son and making up stories for me, and then as he grew, we would create stories together and songs of a fashion too. At 22 now, we still have that bond! The surprise when I started to read about Rupert and before the word was there in front of me, I had this vision of Rupert The Cavalier as a portrait.

To read through the poems and to be brought to this height of self awareness and emotion, I can only applaud the talent of Jean Gill. I want to thank her for sharing her thoughts and precious memories.

Reece says

A lovely book of poetry, with added explanations - delightful, fun and a nice easy read. Subjects covering many walks of life and situations, from the seriousness of epilepsy to encouraging children to eat healthily, history (1066 and Joan of Arc), Christmas shopping, etc., etc. Lots of quirky and amusing lines, with each story explained. I thoroughly enjoyed every minute, and would definitely recommend Jean Gill's book.

Kelly says

This was a total break away with regards to genre for me as I haven't read poetry for years, but I loved the cover and have read other books by Jean Gill.

It took me a couple of poems to get to grips with reading a different genre but I did enjoy the change and it was nice to read something totally different. I enjoyed the variety within the collection and the subjects covered and that I could dip in and out of it when I fancied something different as it was an easy going read.

Gina Clabo says

Loved

I'm really not a poetry reader, although I do like some poems by different people. This book I really enjoyed I loved how Jean Gill gave you the meaning behind each poem she wrote..My favorite was And Grass will grow. I really like the simplicity behind them and yet the beauty she saw when she wrote them..I would like to thank Jean Gill for the free book and the publishing company for exposing me to something I would not have normally read I truly enjoyed it..Recommend to all and to poetry lovers you will love..Gina Clabo

Chris Tunnicliffe says

I was surprised at how readable and relatable this book was, poetry is not a genre I'm very familiar with. I loved the fact that the poems are mostly about everyday life and how some of the poems started with an everyday event and then ended up being related to something different e.g. The Green Party. I liked the stories behind the poems section at the end, it's interesting to read seeing the thinking behind them. I enjoyed the book and would recommend it to others.

Jenny H says

Sometimes moving, mostly amusing, always insightful, I thoroughly enjoyed this retrospective collection of poetry from the 1980s-90s and the stories included about each one. These are pithy poems made from the minutiae of life, from how to make a child eat his greens in 'The Green Party' to the chaos of Christmas shopping ('Liberty's Department Store, London'), along with more serious subjects such as epilepsy and amusing takes on moments in history ('And the Rest was Pre-History'). All teachers will empathise with 'A Teacher's Resignation' but there is a gem or two here for everyone.

A collection to dip into time and time again.

Carole says

I never usually choose poetry to read after being forced to read it at school so having the opportunity to read this was a rare experience for me. I enjoyed the format of the book with Jean's explanations about the poems available at the back of the book. I chose to read a poem, try to decipher its meaning and then read her explanations. On some occasions I was close and on others I was so far off it was startling. As I know little about the differing styles of poetry I found some easier to read and more enjoyable than others. Overall I enjoyed the variety of subject matter from seizures, to blindness, to green matters and much more, and found the book easy reading.

I received a complimentary copy through TBC Reviewer Request group on Facebook. These are my own opinions

Ashley Dyer says

Poetry with bite

A varied and interesting collection, many with a feminist theme. Jean Gill uses a range of poetic form to write poetry with bite.

Susan Angela Wallace says

From bedtime on by Jean Gill.

A collection of poetry including

I tamed more tigers

Creative motherhood

The green party

Stored treasure

Where do you draw the line and more.

Another absolutely fantastic read from Jean.

I've read a few of her books now and have loved every one of them. This is a must read. Love how she writes. 5*. Would give more if I could.

Jessica Smith says

Cute collection of poems

This is a very cute collections of poems that feature big items like war, politics and sexism but does in a way that people can relate to them more... especially mothers and women's. Each poem is accompanied with a excerpt giving some background and additional insight into the poem. For some of the poems this really does add to the poem but to me not all needed extra explanation. This is a short easy read and is very entertaining.

I highly recommend everyone if anything you read the poem "housewife: a feminine occupation" it is amazing!!!

Amy Ingalls says

I won this book in a giveaway. Like all poetry books, some of the poems resonated with me more than others. I am a mother and a teacher, so I liked those poems best. I really liked the format, being able to flip back to the story behind the poem, especially when she went into her thought process and explained how she decided on the format a poem would take.

TheReadingCornerforAll Lopez says

I haven't read a poetry book that has captivated me as much as From Bedtime On in a very long time! Loved the cleverness and humor in Jean Gills work.

Tracy says

Witty loved it!

Witty collection of short poems each containing an excerpt. I found this to be a nice little read. My favorite being a poem about dried plants and dead bees . I always like a good work of poetry any day and this one I feel added to life. I love the authors that make me smile when I read their prose and that I can connect with the written word.

Suze Bickerton says

I love poetry, but don't read nearly enough of it, so I was delighted to be able to read this, Jean Gill's second collection of poetry. Having enjoyed Jean's first book, *With Double Blade*, I was really looking forward to this one.

It didn't disappoint. Again, as with the first collection, there were some poems that really touched me, and others that I enjoyed, but didn't necessarily give me the feels. But I love the variety of subjects, and the openness and honesty of the author. I am in awe of her ability to take an everyday situation, an object or a news item, and then weave a personal experience into it. Wonderful.

I very much appreciated the stories behind the poems which were included, and found that some of them changed the way I viewed the corresponding poems. I read each poem, then its story, then the poem again. 'Alternative Medicine' is a good example where the story very much enhanced my reading of the poem.

Other poems I particularly enjoyed were 'Housewife: A Feminine Occupation', 'No News is Good News' and 'The Green Party'. But my two favourites were 'Eternity Ring' (maybe because I'm a hopeless romantic with self esteem issues!), and also 'Sensory Compensation' as I've had blind friends so it resonated with me. This last poem also contained my favourite lines from the whole collection:

'I would not give my eyes to tune pianos
But for one brightened night to read the raised points on your skin with blind man's fingers
I might.'

If you like your poetry sharp, contemporary and challenging, this collection is for you. Recommended.

Krista Dolan says

I won a free kindle version of *From Bedtime On* through a Goodreads giveaway (thank you, thank you!). Something about this collection, just didn't click with me for some reason. However, I appreciate that the stories behind the poetry was included; I often think this is valuable information that can be used to better understand the poem and the author herself.
